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EXCLUSIVELY YOURS

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telephone for something he thought could easily wait till the next day—is an amusing tale.

SOME FASCINATING FACTS emerged from the dinner given the other evening by Lebanese Ambassador and Mrs. Dimechkie. It was one of six dinners they have given in two weeks' time, all because they are losing their wonderful Italian cook in May and themselves will go to California this week.

Deputy Undersecretary of State and Mrs. U. Alexis Johnson were there and Pat Johnson turned out to be a palmist, the likes of which I have never before encountered. She has been reading palms since she was a little girl and what she can't tell you about yourself doesn't amount to very much.

She gained quite a reputation in Thailand when her husband was Ambassador there. The King of Thailand was dumbfounded when she told him among other things that he had really wanted to be a physician, a truth she had not known before, and Mrs. Pote Sarasin, wife of the former Ambassador to Washington now Secretary General of SEATO, didn't wear any jewelry but the costume variety for two months after Mrs. Johnson told her she would lose a valuable piece. Then the Queen had a birthday party and she decided to wear a diamond and ruby ring, and—you guessed it—she lost it.

SENATOR GALE MCGEE of Wyoming told about the gold and jade ring he was wearing on the ring finger of his right hand. He bought it in Hong Kong, where the man who sold it told him that the jade came from America. "Some very fine jade," he had told him, "comes from Wyoming."

That reminded Alexis Johnson that the famous pearl merchant of the Orient, Mr. Mikimoto, once told him that the best nucleus to put into an oyster to produce the fine culture pearl was a bead made from a Mississippi River clamshell.

But the most fascinating tale was the one Allen Dulles told at dinner about the night President Harding died. He was director of the Far Eastern division at the time and was with the then Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes down at the department when the latter finally succeeded in reaching Calvin Coolidge on the telephone up in Vermont to break the news to him. . . . Vice President Coolidge was visiting his father but the latter had no forts to get the farmer who lived down the road to get

MR. COOLIDGE took down the oath of office that Mr. Hughes read to him over the phone. The oath is included in the Constitution, but where, asked Mr. Dulles, could one find a copy of the Constitution in the State Department late at night when everything was locked up? "In the World Almanac," replied Walt Rostow, and Mr. Dulles confessed that's exactly where he had found it on that fateful night in August, 1923.

The whole conversation between Hughes and Coolidge as related by Mr. Dulles is a delight to hear, but the latter has improved on the true ending. When Hughes suggested that Coolidge get back to Washington at once, the new President replied that he thought he could get a lower the next night. With the Coolidge reputation for frugality it makes a better story, said Mr. Dulles, to say "an upper," instead. . . . Actually, since he was now President of the United States, a train was at his disposal the very next morning.

W. ROSTOW

P. C. COOLIDGE